

May 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

X Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food:

To Whom It May Concern:

The FDA should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation", and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated foods. The labels should be on the front of the package and large enough to be readily visible by the consumer. All foods should be labeled. Misleading terms such as "electronic pasteurization" or "cold pasteurization" should not be allowed. The absence of a statement would also be misleading. Radiation destroys nutrients, creates changes in the quality of food and is hazardous to our health. We as consumers certainly have a right to know if the irradiation process has been used on our food.

Because of the newness of the technology, hazards involved in its use and the need to assess the public health effects of widespread use of irradiated foods, I believe that the FDA's labeling requirements should not be permitted to expire.

Yours truly,

*Patricia J. Flanders*  
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*This is an outrage. We deserve to know how our food is being treated - whether by additives or radiation. Or is business your only constituent?*

*Pat Flanders*

Patricia J. Flanders

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